

## Message Text

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41

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 MCT-01 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 OMB-01 ACDA-10 /094 W

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P 271045Z SEP 76

FM AMCONSUL BORDEAUX

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0550

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMAMBASSY MADRIS PRIORITY 0022

AMCONSUL BILBAO PRIORITY

RUFJCXAMCONSUL LYON PRIORITY 0038

AMCONSUL NICE PRIORITY

AMCONSUL MARSEILLE PRIORITY

AMCONSUL STRASBOURG PRIORITY

UNCLAS BORDEAUX 0169

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PINT, FR

SUBJECT: ETA ANNOUNCES ABANDONMENT OF OFFENSIVE STRUGGLE

1. THREE MEMBERS OF THE BASQUE NATIONALIST ORGANIZATION, THE ETA, DECLARED TO A SMALL NUMBER OF FRENCH JOURNALISTS ON SEPTEMBER 25 IN THE SOUTHWEST OF FRANCE THAT THE ETA IS ABANDONING THE QUOTE OFFENSIVE STRUGGLE UNQUOTE THAT IT HAS CONDUCTED AGAINST THE FRANCO REGIME, BUT WILL REMAIN ARMED TO QUOTE DEFEND THE DEMOCRATIC SUCCESSES OF THE MOVEMENTS OF THE MASSES UNQUOTE. THESE THREE SPOKESMEN ALSO INDICATED THAT THE BASQUE MILITANTS WILL CREATE A POLITICAL PARTY WHICH THEY DESCRIBED AS QUOTE REVOLUTIONARY AND NATION-ALIST UNQUOTE. THIS NEW ORIENTATION BY THE BASQUE AUTONOMIST MOVEMENT, THEY INDICATED QUOTE IS A RESULT OF THE EVOLUTION OF THE SPANISH POLITICAL SITUATION FROM A DICTATORSHIP TOWARD A BOURGEOIS DEMOCRACY UNQUOTE. THIS NEW POLICY REPORTEDLY ENGAGES THE POLITICAL MILITARY WING OF THE ETA ALSO.

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2. THE JOURNALISTS WHO WERE CONVOKED TO THIS UNUSUAL PRESS BRIEFING IN THE FRENCH BASQUE REGION ( WE HAVE REASONS TO BELIEVE IT WAS NEAR ST-JEAN-DE-LUZ) WERE LED BLINDFOLDED TO THE SITE OF THE BRIEFING. REPORTEDLY, THE THREE ETA SPOKESMEN THEMSELVES WERE MASKED IN ORDER TO CONCEAL THEIR IDENTITIES. FRENCH OFFICIALS BELIEVE THESE SPOKESMEN ARE VALID REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ETA.

3. ACCORDING TO LOCAL FRENCH OFFICIALS, THE BASQUE NATIONALIST FACTIONS HAVE, IN EFFECT, DECIDED TO UNIFY THEIR GROUPS INTO ONE POLITICAL ORGANIZATION. THIS DEVELOPMENT IMPLIES THE REINTEGRATION OF THE POLITICO-MILITARY WING INTO AN OVERALL ETA GROUPING. ALSO, MOST OF THE ORGANIZATIONAL ACTIVITIES OF THE ETA ARE NOW EXPECTED TO BE TRANSFERRED INTO SPAIN. THIS DEVELOPMENT IMPLIES LESS OF A NECESSITY FOR THE ETA TO OPERATE QUOTE IN EXILE UNQUOTE IN FRANCE. THESE DECISIONS ARE VIEWED LOCALLY AS A POSITIVE EVOLUTION WHICH MAY PROVE TO BE STEPS TOWARD THE INTEGRATION OF THE BASQUE NATIONALIST MOVEMENT INTO THE SPANISH POLITICAL PROCESS.DJEREJIAN

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